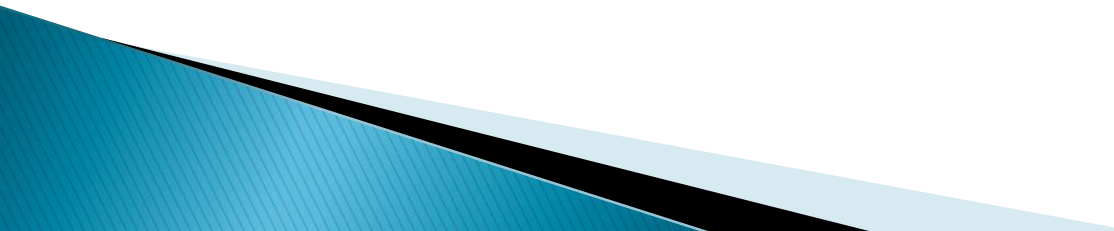


SACS Commission on Colleges

AN OVERVIEW

GOALS OF WORKSHOP

- ▶ Understanding the basics of accreditation
 - ▶ Understanding the structure of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
 - ▶ Understanding the role of the institution's board in the accreditation process
 - ▶ Understanding the requirements of each of the *Principles of Accreditation*
- 

TYPES OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- ▶ National Agencies

Accredit institutions of higher education that have a single focus irrespective of location

- ▶ Regional Agencies

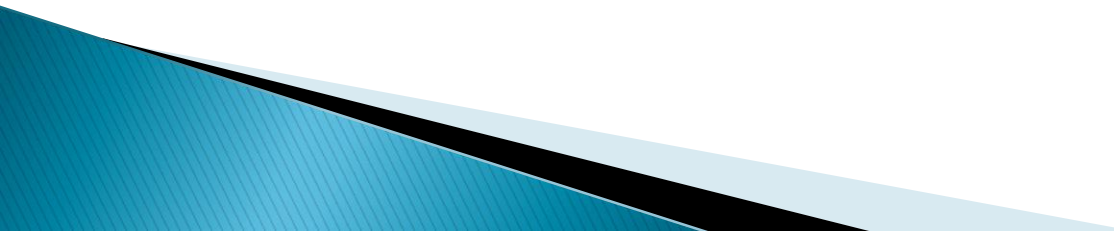
Accredit all aspects of an institution of higher education in specific regions

- ▶ Specialized or Professional Agencies

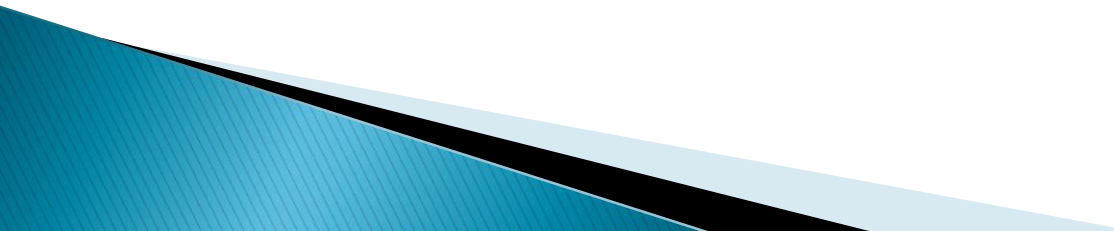
Accredit programs within institutions



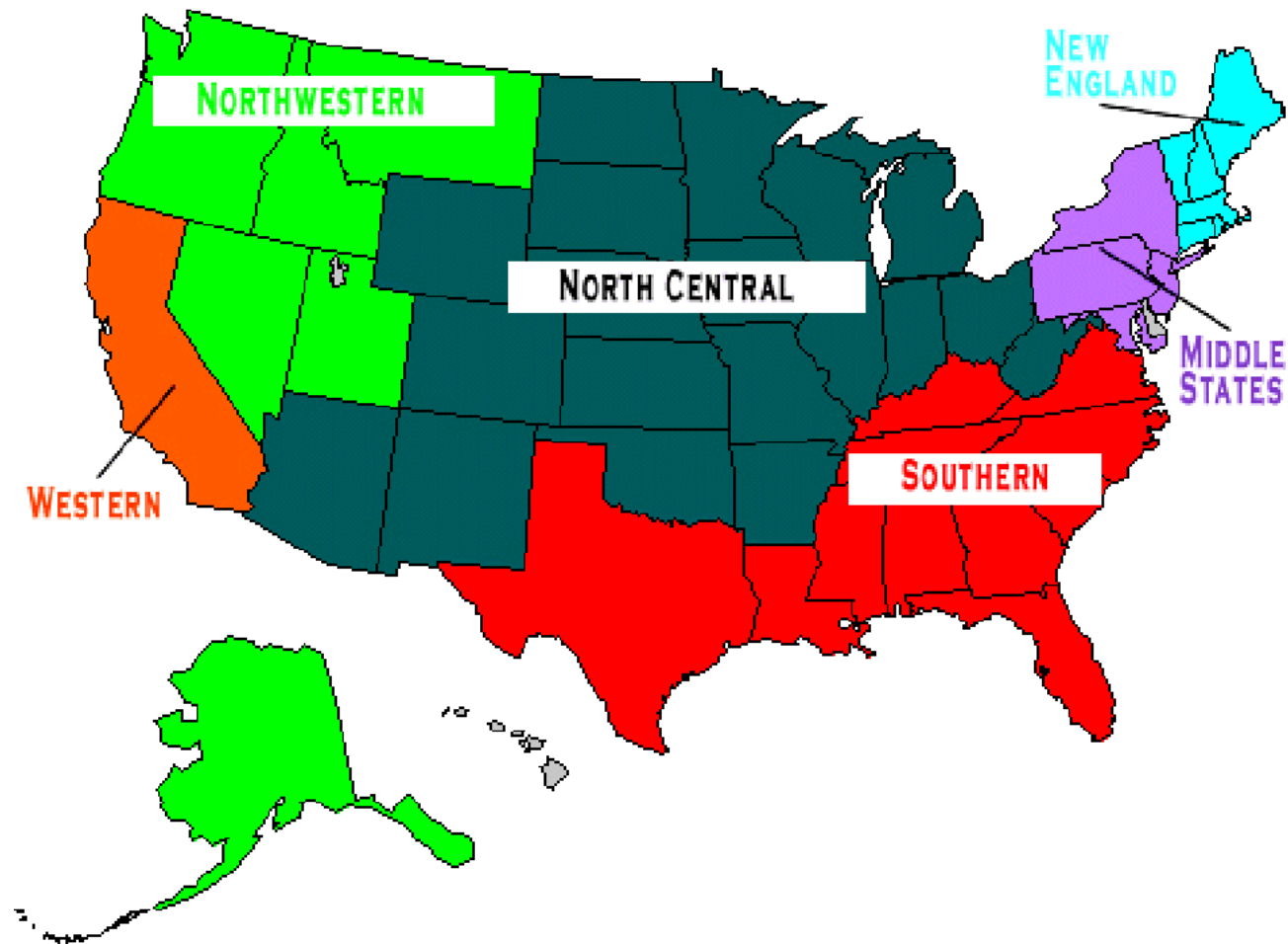
Characteristics of Regional Accreditation

- ▶ Comprehensive, Periodic Review
 - ▶ Focus on Institution–Wide Goals, Processes, Outcomes
 - ▶ Related to Institutional Purpose and Mission
 - ▶ Regional in Scope
 - ▶ Voluntary
 - ▶ Non–Governmental
 - ▶ Decentralized National System
 - ▶ Non–Profit
- 

REGIONAL ACCREDITATION PURPOSES

- ▶ Improve Quality throughout the institution
 - ▶ Assure the public that institutions meet established standards
 - ▶ Serve as a “gate-keeper” for federal financial aid
- 

SIX REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATIONS



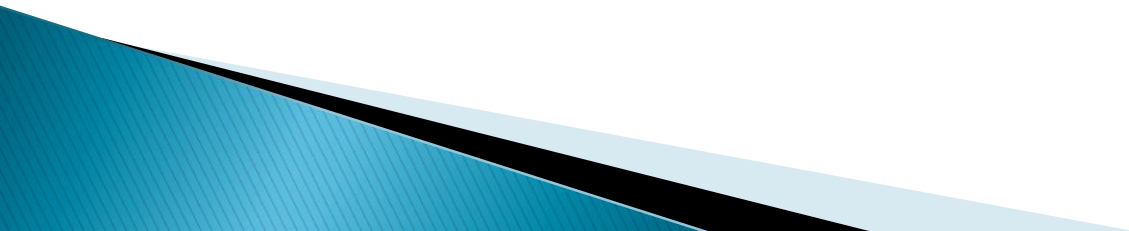
Number of Institutions Accredited

▶ SACSCOC	804
▶ North Central	1 000+
▶ Middle States	515
▶ Western	350 (approx)
▶ New England	236
▶ Northwest	156

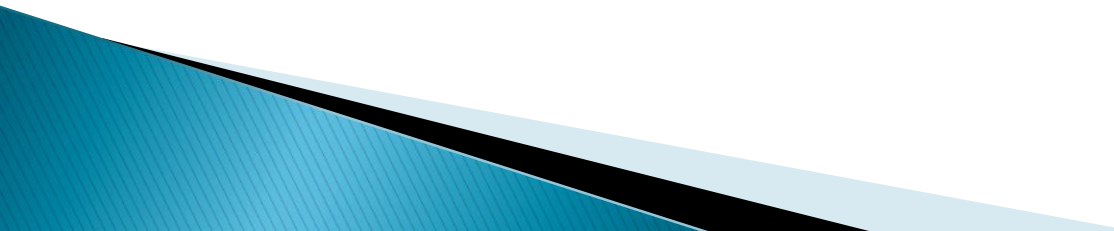
C-RAC

Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions

This is a group composed of the president or director of each of the regional accrediting associations.

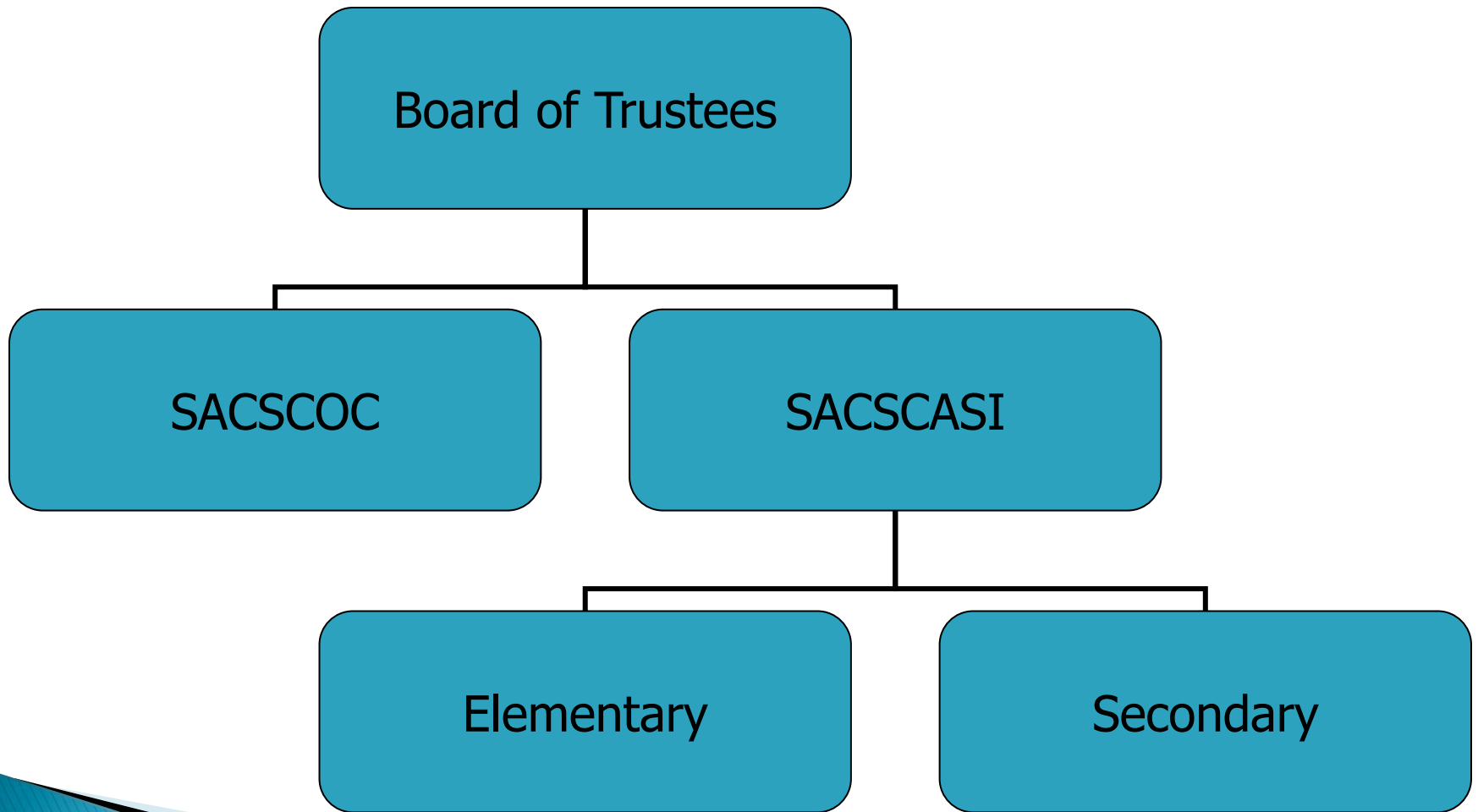


Oversight of Commission Activities

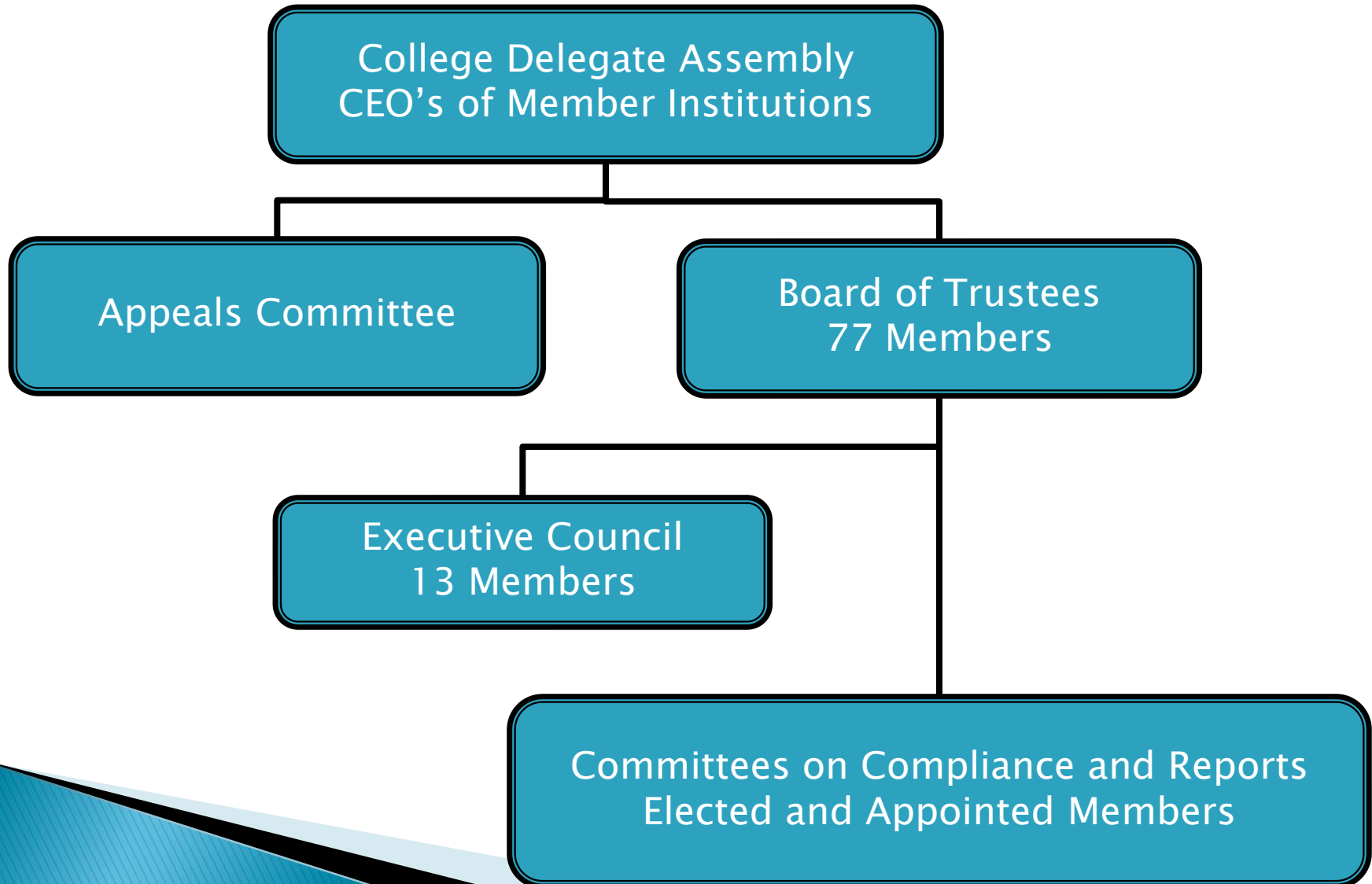
- ▶ Review by U.S. Department of Education based on recognition standards
 - ▶ Recommendation by DOE to National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) (Appointed group of educators and public members)
 - ▶ NACIQI makes recommendation to recognize or not recognize an accrediting agency to US Secretary of Education
- 



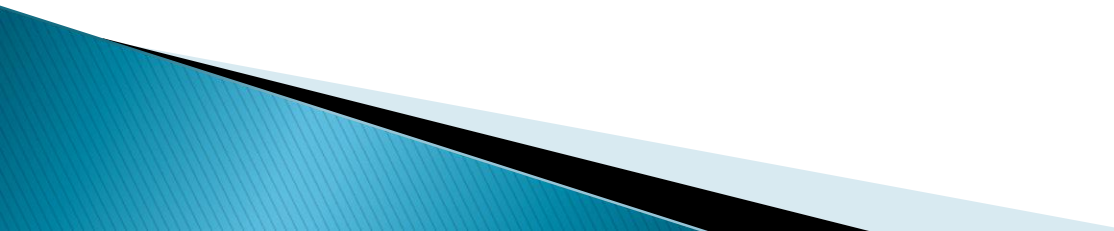
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



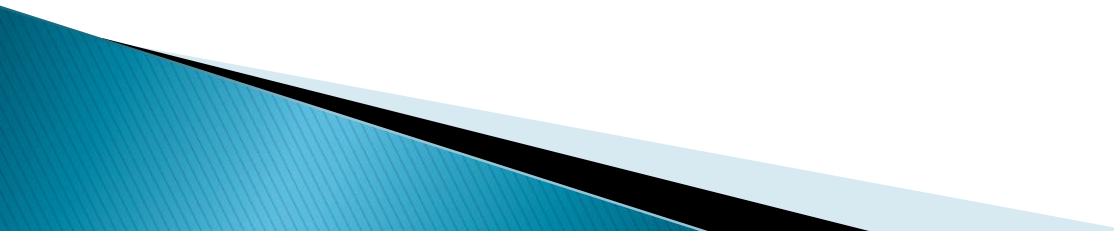
Commission on Colleges Structure



College Delegate Assembly

- ▶ There are 804 member institutions each with one vote on such things as changes to the *Principles* or the dues structure
 - ▶ The CEO of a member institution has the vote but may appoint someone else from the institution to vote for him/her
 - ▶ The College Delegate Assembly meets once per year at the Annual Meeting in December
- 

SACSCOC Board of Trustees

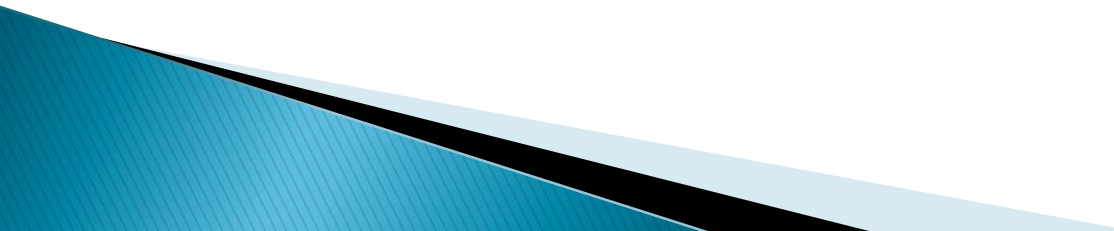
- ▶ 77 persons (called Trustees)
 - ▶ Three institutional representatives from each state (33)
 - ▶ One public member from each state (11)
 - ▶ Thirty-three at large representatives from member institutions (33)
 - ▶ They represent public and private institutions
 - ▶ They represent all levels of member institutions
 - ▶ Meet twice a year in June and in December
 - ▶ They may be presidents, other administrators, faculty from member institutions.
- 

Executive Council

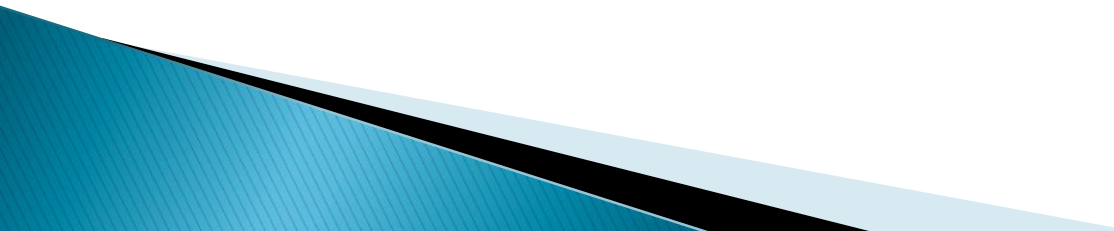
- ▶ 13 of the Trustees serve on the Executive Council
 - One from each of the eleven states
 - One public member
 - The Chair of the Board of Trustees

Appeals Committee

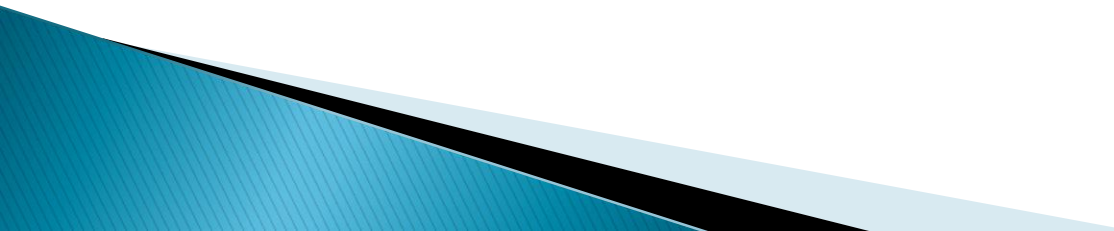
Some decisions affecting an institution are appealable, e.g., withdrawal from membership. When an institution appeals, the Appeals Committee meets to hear the appeal.



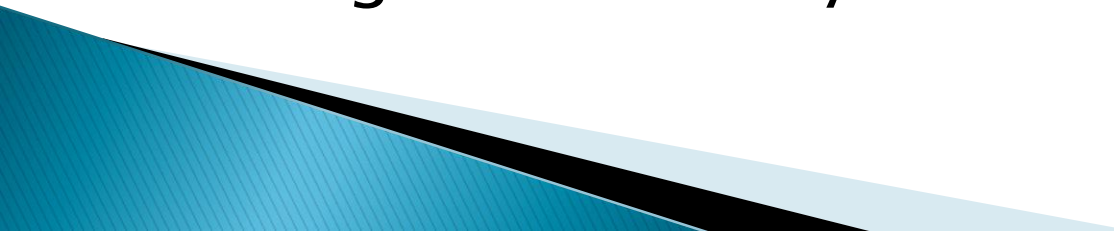
Committees on Compliance and Reports

- ▶ The 64 Commissioners who do not serve on the Executive Council serve on the Committees on Compliance and Reports
 - ▶ These Committees make recommendations about actions on institutions when they meet in June at the Summer Meeting and in December at the Annual Meeting
- 

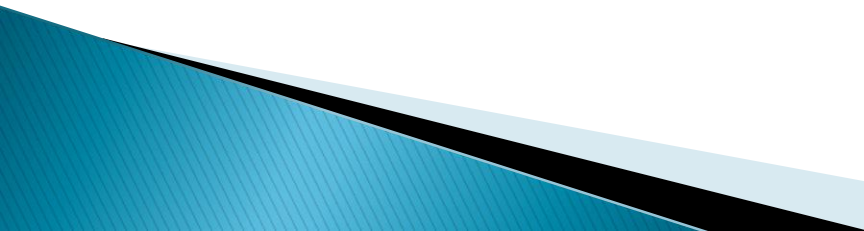
Process for Taking Action on a Member Institution

- ▶ Materials submitted by institution
 - ▶ Committee visit
 - ▶ Materials and Reports submitted to Committee on Compliance and Reports
 - ▶ Recommendation by Committee on Compliance and Reports to Executive Council for review and (sometimes) change
 - ▶ Entire 77 member Board then votes on recommended action
- 

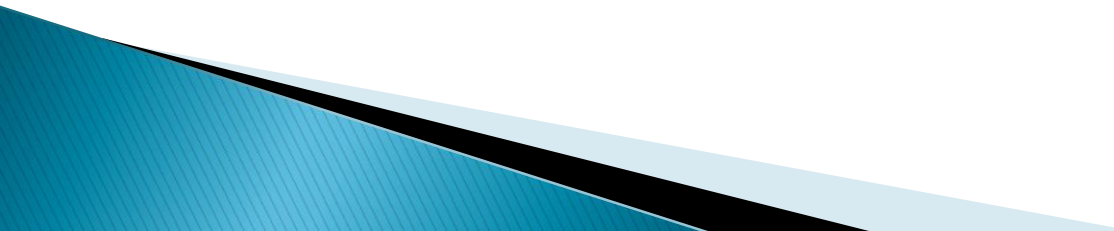
Principles of Accreditation

- ▶ The requirements and standards which institutions must meet to become members and remain members
 - ▶ Developed by committees or task forces consisting of representatives of member institutions
 - ▶ Can be changed only by vote of College Delegate Assembly
- 

Principles of Accreditation

- ▶ Principle of Integrity
 - ▶ Core Requirements (CR)
 - Governance, Administrative Structure, Mission, Curriculum, Learning Resources, Student Support Services, Financial and Physical Resources, Faculty, Evaluation and Planning, Quality Enhancement Plan
 - ▶ Comprehensive Standards (CS)
 - Same as above but in further detail
 - ▶ Federal Requirements (FR)
 - Student achievement, complaints, publication of policies, student authentication, credit hour, state authorization
- 

Reaffirmation Process

- ▶ Compliance Certification
 - ▶ Off-Site Committee Review
 - ▶ Focused Report
 - ▶ On-Site Committee Review
 - QEP
 - Non-Compliance Issues
 - Selected Issues for US DOE
 - ▶ C&R Committee Review
 - ▶ Executive Council Review
 - ▶ Board Approval
- 

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

- ▶ Addressed by two *Principles*:
 - CR 2.12 and CS 3.3.2
- ▶ Assesses how well an institution is doing what it says it is doing, including the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and improvement based on the results

Substantive Change

If a member institution undertakes a change that is significant (“substantive”) such as a level change or change of ownership or developing off-campus sites, it must go through an approval process.





ROLES OF THE BOARD

- *Policy-making body*
- *Hire, Evaluate and, when necessary, Fire the CEO*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE

Complementary but separate duties

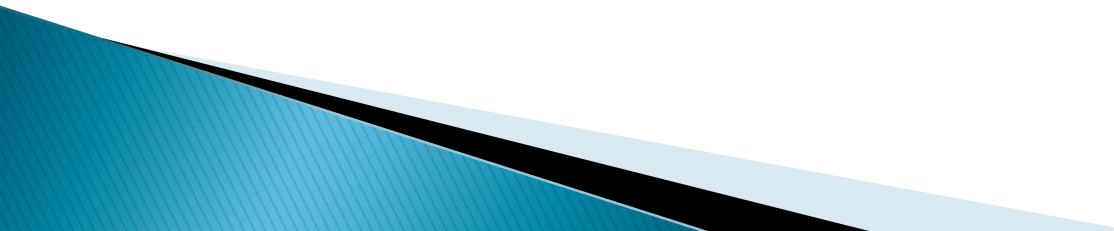
[Clear and appropriate distinction, in writing & in practice, between policy-making function of board & responsibility of administration & faculty to implement policy]. (CS 3.2.6)

BOARD STATUS/STRUCTURE

Is the legal body with authority over institution.

Minimum of five members.

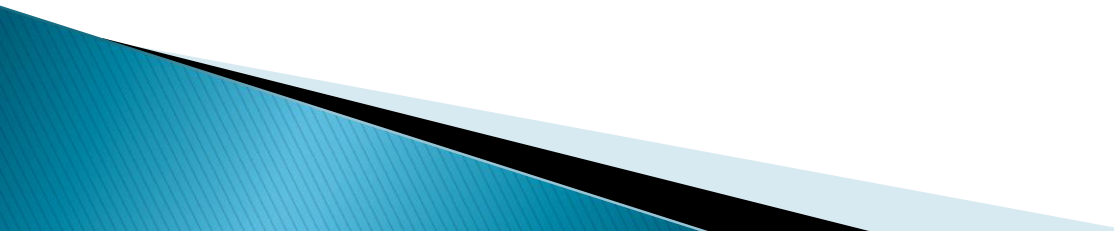
Not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations/interests separate from it. (CR 2.2)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Responsibility & authority of faculty

[Policies on the responsibility and authority of faculty in governance and academic matters]. (CR2.2 & CS 3.7.5)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

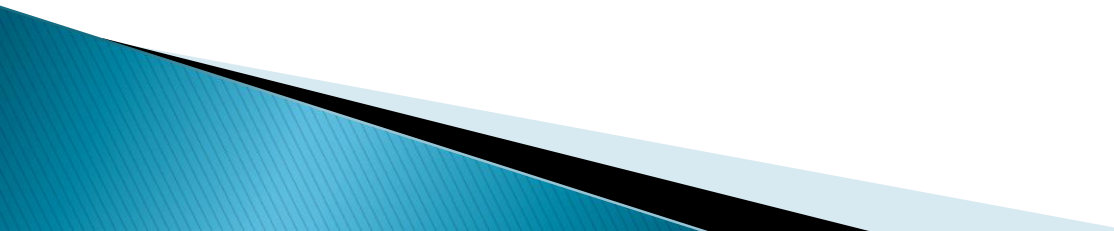
Academic freedom

[Ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom]. (CS 3.7.4)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Protect institution from undue influence

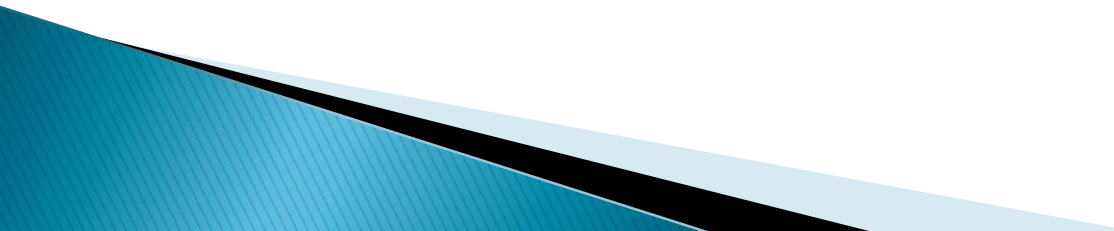
[Maintain freedom from undue influence from political, religious, or other external bodies and protects the institution from such influence]. (cs 3.2.4)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

Conflict of interest

[Presiding officer of the board & a majority of the other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution]. (CS 2.2)



ROLES OF THE BOARD

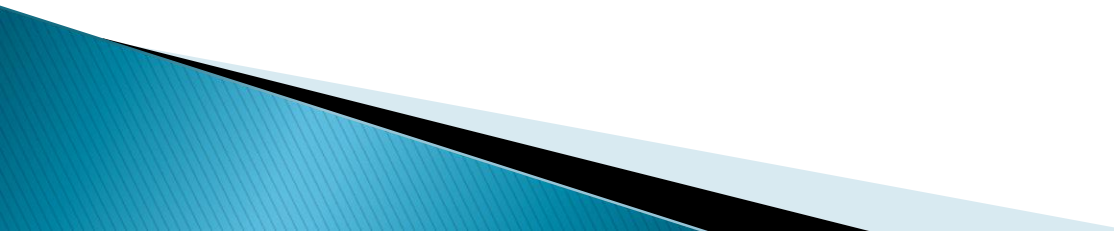
Select and evaluate the CEO

[The governing board is responsible for the selection and the periodic evaluation of the chief executive officer]. (CS 3.2.1)

ROLES OF THE BOARD

Board member dismissal

[Policy whereby board members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process]. (CS 3.2.5)

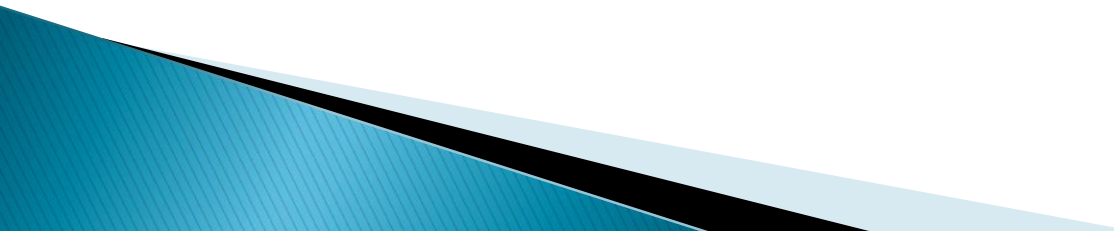


ROLES OF THE BOARD

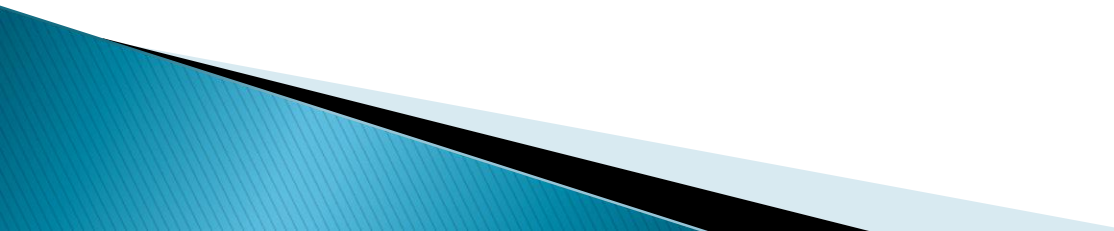
Ensuring adequate financial resources and stability (CR 2.2 ; CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.1)

Provide appropriate financial statements (CR 2.11.1; CS 3.10.3; FR 4.7)

Institutional Issues

- ▶ Student Success
 - Planning and Assessment
 - Remedial Education
 - Completion/Graduation Rates
 - Retention Rates
 - Program Review
 - Transfer of Credits
- 

National Issues

- ▶ Completion/Graduation Rates
 - ▶ Employability
 - ▶ Accountability
 - ▶ Affordability and Cost
 - ▶ Remedial Education
 - ▶ For-profit Institutions
- 

SACSCOC Students Are Central to Success

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STRONGER by DEGREES

